¶ The effect of the declaratiō made in the Guildhall by M. Recorder of London, concerning the late attemptes of the Quenes Maiesties euill, seditious, and disobedient subiectes.

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ON Monday the xv. of Octo-
ber. 1571. Syr Rowland Hay-
ward knight Lorde Maior of
London and his worshypfull bre-
thren the Aldermen, with all the
Counsell of the Citie, assembled at
the Guildhall in ỳ place there cal-
led the Maiors Court, hauyng all
the wardens of the companies
before them, with a great multi-
tude of other Citizens: M. Wil-
liam Fletwood Esquier Recorder
of London, made his Oration in
effect as foloweth.

AMong the auncient recordes
and monumentes of this ho-
norable Citie, I finde one, begyn-
nyng thus: Inter altioris consilij vi-
ros. &cet. Among men of depest
counsell and of most graue and
wise consideration, it hath euer
been the vse in searching and vn-
derstandyng of truth and gouer-
nyng of mens doynges and poli-

cies alway to follow the auncient presidentes and steps of our forefathers. Wherefore I thought it best first to recite vnto you some auncient examples & presidentes in like cases vsed by the most noble and wise kynges of England and their Counsels.

In the third yere of kyng Henry the third, the kyng beyng much disquieted with rebellious conspiracies of disordered and seditious subiectes, dyd at the place which we now call Paules crosse assemble a Folkemote of the Citie of London, so called bicause it is a metyng and callyng together of the Folke that is the people, the gouernours and the worshypfull and honest inhabitauntes of this Citie, and there both enquired of disorders and made declaration of his purpose and meanes to redresse the same.

In the sixt yeare of the reigne of the same kyng Henry the third,

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the kyng hymselfe and the kyng of Romanes his brother mindyng to passe ouer the seas together for the repressing of certaine rebellions raised agaynst hym in Gascoigne and Guiene and other hys dominions beyond the seas, dyd first at the same place of Paules crosse assemble his good subiectes of the sayd Citie of London, and there not onely declared the causes of his goyng ouer sea but also asked licence of his subiectes to passe out of the realme. The noble kyng consideryng the person of the prince to be hed of the common wealth, thought it not conuenient to depart without taking leaue of his subiectes. And the Citizens of London in the name of all his good subiectes of England assented to his goyng ouer, which the kyng then toke to be as strong and as full an agreement as if the same had ben agreed vnto in Parlament. For Ciuitas London est ca-

put omnium ciuitatum huius regni. The Citie of London is the hed of all the Cities of England.

Kyng Edward the fyrst when he went about hys conquest of Wales, he first published the causes therof to this honorable Citie. Kyng Henry the vij. likewise folowyng the same presidentes, after hys battayle fought at Bosworth fielde, also before Lolecote fielde, before his enterprise at Newarke, and before the battayle when he subdued the Rebelles at Blackheath fielde, declared the causes and hys meaning, to hys good and louing subiectes of the Citie of London, and left wyth them thys noble Citie hys chamber to be safely kept and preserued in his absence, which they truely and faythfully performed.

Also within your owne memory, you haue knowne the late Queene Mary came hether into this Citie in her owne person, and

sit-

ſytting in thys ſame place where my Lord Maior now ſitteth, declare vnto you her ſtate and purpoſe.

This I rehearſe to this end, to ſhew vnto you, that it is no new thing which is now done, but ſuch whereof there be many auncient preſidentes that kynges of thys Realme haue vſed ſometyme by themſelues in their owne royall perſons, ſometyme by their greateſt and graueſt counſellers, and ſomtyme by the Magiſtrates of this Citie, to declare vnto their good Citizens of Lõdon the great & waighty affaires touching their perſons, eſtates, and enterpriſes. So this is no rare or new doyng, but euen the ſame which God hymſelfe hath vſed and geuen the examples of. For God, who might if it had pleaſed hym, haue ſpoken out of a clowde, and wyth the terrible ſound of hys heauenly voyce haue conueyed hys mynde

to hys people of Israel, yet would not so doe, but gaue hys will in charge and instruction to hys seruaunt Moses, and Moses deliuered ouer the same to Aaron, & Aaron to the elders, and they to the people of God. And the same example of God principally, and since of her noble progenitors, the Quenes maiestie our most gracious soueraigne Lady followeth & hath thought good to vse with you her louyng subiectes of her chamber, of her noblest, faithfullest, & to her derelyest beloued Citie of London.

The cause therefore why ye be now assembled is this. Her highnes pleasure was that the Lordes & other of her maiesties most honorable priuie Counsell should call before them the Lord Maior and other of ỹ gouernours of this Citie and impart to them the state of thynges at this tyme concernyng her Maiestie and the gouer-

naunce

naunce of her realme. And accor-
dyng to her highnes sayd pleasure
on Friday last past, at the ster re
chãber at Westminster the Lords
of the Counsell assembled bef ore
them the right honorable the L.
Maior of this Citie, vj. of his wor-
shypfull brethren the Aldermen,
and sixe of the sagest communers,
and me as one vnworthy among
the rest. And there the sayd Lords
and other of her most honorable
Counsell to the sayd Lord Maior
Aldermen and commoners decla-
red such mater as they had by her
Maiesties owne mouth geuen
them in charge to publishe. And
euery one of the Lordes there
spake in their order seuerally some
one part & some an other in most
wise and graue sorte, & in wordes
of great weight and importance.
Whose seuerall & singular speches
and what euery one of them par-
ticularly sayd I will not rehearse
vnto you, for that were to cou-

found and accomber your memo-
ries. But I will in few wordes
recite the summe of all their say-
inges gathered into one, that ye
may the more easily conceiue the
same and the more firmely kepe it
in remembraunce.
We doubt not that ye heare (sayd
they) of such matters touching the
Queenes Maiestie, and her estate
as now be in hand, and likewise
ye vnderstand of such persons as
for great causes be apprehended,
and committed to custodie. Her
Maiestie nothing doubteth, but
that you her good and louing citi-
zens of her city of London hauing
had so long experiment of her
good and gracious gouernment,
haue seene & found the same to be
such, as she trusteth you haue no
cause to mislike or repent it. And
her Maiestie hath this opinion of
you being her louing and her most
dearely beloued Citizens, that ye
will not conceiue other of her, but
that

that what soeuer she hath done herein, she hath done it by good reason, & hath iust cause to do the same, and a great deale more.

Surely the matter of the great and daungerous conspiracies by them agaynst her person, her realme, & her gouernement, is no fable, nor of small importance, but such as if it had not bene in time discouered by the prouidence, euen the prouidence I say of almighty God, rather then by any humaine policie, not onely her Maiesties person had bene in danger, but also this noble Citie had come to spoyle and destruction.

This followyng I adde out of your owne auncient recordes of this Citie of London, where it remayneth, Inter regulas Hugonis Episcopi Lincolnienſis, among the rules of Hugh Bishop of Lincolne by hym written, concerning the best maner of gouerning the common weale. Omne malum ab

aquilone pansum est: All euill or mischiefe is spread abroad out of the north. If any harme or destruction be entended to thys noble citie of London, ab aquilone pansum erit: it is conspired, and will come out of the North.

In the north there hath ben, and yet is a byrd of great trouble and vnquietnes, which hath there laid an egge of most dangerous rebellion, and the same hath ben from thence brought hither to this citie, & here as the Lords further declared, hath bene hatched, and hath brought forth a brood of most vile and horrible treason. For as their Lordships shewed besides ỹ danger of destruction to the Queenes Maiesties most noble sacred & annointed persō, whō God preserue: beside the ouerthrowe of her most royall crowne and dignitie: beside the alteration of her most vertuous, mercifull, and gracious gouernement, euen about this mo-

neth

neth, and this very time, that I am now speking vnto you, it was by them intended that this noble, faythfull, and sacred citie, should haue bene surprised and taken by the most cruell traytors & rebels: the richest persons and such as God hath blessed with fortunes and worldly goodes, should haue bene robbed ryfled and spoyled: the bodies of the chiefe gouernors & most notable men, should haue bene apprehended and murdered: by which meanes it should haue bene brought to passe, that the terrour of such crueltie executed vpon the citye of London, and the fame thereof spread throughout the world might make al other afraid to resiste them, and for feare the gladder to come vnder their subiection.

They had conspired with the Queenes forraine enemies the Pope & the Duke of Alua, & from them they were promised to haue

forraine ayde that shoulde haue landed at some place neare to the Citie of London, albeit the same through Gods good prouidence, & by other good meanes of policie hath bene letted. Yet haue the same forraine enemies promysed, to the same most vntrue & vnnaturall subiectes, that hereafter when tyme and opportunitie shall serue and their necessitie require, they will send them ayde, and supply their neede wyth strength and power for their rescue & defence.

So thys most daungerous intention you playnely see was not onely to destroy the Queenes most royall person (whome God long preserue) but also to tumble vp her gouernment, to ouerthrow the state of this realme, and to spoyle and vndoe thys noble Citie: which was so haynous and so wicked a purpose as was neuer seene or heard the like. Thys is the fyrst part of so much as was ap-

appoynted to be declared vnto you.

The second part is this. That though her maiestie be most assured of the faythfull hartes, good willes and deuotions of her good and louyng citizens, yet forasmuch as her highnes well knoweth that in so populous a multitude, it can not be but some will be vngracious, and euill disposed, not of the best, substãtiall, and honest sort of you, but rascalles and of the worst degree, as hath appered in some that spred rumors and haue scattered leude and seditious papers and letters, geuyng away the honor of her Maiesties good gouernement to other, and transferring great praises to some singular persons that neuer deserued the same, by which doing they haue sought to deface & confronte her maiesties most gracious, mercifull, and good regiment, and practised as much as in them lieth

to ſtrengthen the partie of her highnes enemies, and to rayſe grudge of her highnes ſubiectes agaynſt her maieſtie, her counſell, and gouerners by her appointed.

Therefore her highnes commaunded the Lord Maior and other that haue charge of this her noble and moſt dearely beloued citie, that they ſhould haue vigilant eyes, vſe diligent heede, and (as the very terme was) a careful care, not onely toward the whole bodye of the Citie, but alſo euery member thereof: and commaundeth you all, euery one of you, in your companies, & in your houſeholdes, and in euery place, tyme, and opportunitie to looke about you, and if there may any ſuch be found that ſhall ſpread any ſuch rumor or vſe any ſuch ſpeach, eyther agaynſt the Queenes Maieſtie, or her counſell, gouernement, or doinges, or to auaunce any ſingular perſon now apprehended

by

by her Maiesties authoritie for most iust causes, or to the troublyng of the state of the realme or quiet of thys Citie, eyther by writing, ciphering, printing, speaking or otherwyse, wherby the state of the realme may be sclaundered or troubled, or the Queenes Maiesties gouernement and doynges brought in infamy or confronted, or any daungerous persons receiue encouragement or fauour: that forthwyth ye apprehend all such, and cause them immediatly to be brought before my L. Maior, that such offenders may accordyng to the lawes of the Citie, the lawes of the crowne, and of the Realme, receiue condigne punishment for their misdemeanors. And this is the summe of all that I was willed to declare vnto you at thys present.

Then rose the Lord Maior, and most wysely, pithily, and succinctly

cinctly spake as followeth.

There is yet somewhat more to say vnto you. Albeit the substaunce of that we had in charge, hath bene well and fully declared by M. Recorder. Bet because ye here assembled, are the wardens of the seuerall companies, into which the body of thys Citie is deuided, it was thought necessary ye shoulde be called to vnderstand the effect of that which the Lordes did signifie vnto vs, and her highnes by her owne mouth, had commaunded them to cause to be published among you. And because ye beyng wise men, can well beare away the effect therof, it is also thought good to require you, that ye call afore you in your seueral Halles, your Lineries and the honest housholders of your Companies, and there make declaration of this that hath bene her Maiesties pleasure, that you and they should vnderstand. And

so

so ye may depart.

Therewith arose a great showt crying, God saue the Quene. And at the ende in a manner of euery sentence which Master Recorder spake, the good Citizens of London the wardens of their companies, and a great multitude of other Citizens that came thether to heare of the matter, coulde not contayne theyr affections, but still now & then brake out into cryes of harty prayers for her grace, and detestation of her enemies, and thankes to God for her miraculous deliuerãce, to the great comforte of such as had in charge to make that declaration. So as we may well say:

Be it knowne to her Maiestie, for her ioy: to all good subiectes, for their assurance: aud to all papistes and other traytors, to their terror: that

the noble faithful true louing and christian citie of London, is our Queene Elizabethes vnremoueably, cõtinuing dayly in prayer for her preseruation, and in their most dutifull maner ready with expence of all that they haue, and aduenture of their liues, to refuse no perill in her highnes defence and seruice, and subduing of her enimies, rebelles, and traitors.

God saue Queene Elizabeth, and confound her enemies.

¶ Cum gratia & priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.